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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06273 201307 Z

43
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 124165
R 201148 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2551
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6273

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH
SUBJ: SOMPONG SUCHARITKUL CANDIDACY FOR ILC SEAT

REFS: A) BANGKOK 5269; B) STATE 63389

1. I MET AMBASSADOR SOMPONG (WHO IS CURRENTLY VISITING THAILAND) AT OPENING SESSION OF PATTAYA MEETING OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND WE DISCUSSED INTER ALIA HIS CANDIDACY FOR ILC SEAT.

2. SOMPONG INFORMED ME THAT HE NOW HAS THE SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT
OF ALL THE ASEAN MEMBERS (I. E., INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES). HE ALSO CLAIMS THE SUPPORT OF JAPAN AND AFGHANI-STAN. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WHICH HE CLAIMS FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN, EASTERN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN NATIONS, PLUS BRAZIL, WOULD ASSURE HIM OF ELECTION, ACCORDING TO HIS CALCULATIONS, IF HE HAD U. S. SUPPORT OR EVEN IF THE U. S. ABSTAINED FROM VOTING. U. S. OPPOSITION COULD, HOWEVER, TIP THE BALANCE AGAINST HIM. HE IS NATURALLY VERY HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL SUPPORT AND AT LEAST NOT RPT NOT BLOCK HIS CANDIDACY.

3. ASSUMING THAT SOMPONG' S CLAIMS WITH RESPECT TO ASIAN SUPPORT ARE ACCURATE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AN EXTREMELY STRONG CASE EXISTS FOR A U. S. VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS HIGHLY- QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.
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WHILE I REALIZE THAT A BASIS MAY EXIST FOR DRAWING A DISTRINCTION BETWEEN OUR POLICY WITH ESPECT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING AND VOTING IN THE ILC (REF B), OUR OFT- REPEATED STATEMENTS TO SOMPONG THAT WE WILL BE GUIDED BY THE VIEWS OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION CERTAINLY GIVES HIM SOME REASON TO EXPECT OUR SUPPORT NOW, ALTHOUGH HE OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZES THAT THIS IS SOMETHING FOR AMBASSADOR KEARNEY TO DECIDE.

4. TAKING IT A STEP FURTHER, IF HIS SUPPORT IS SUFFICIENT SO THAT THE U. S. VOTE WOULD BE DECISIVE AGAINST HIM, OR EVEN IF WE ULTIMATELY CAST OUR VOTE AGAINST HIS SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY, I NEED HARDLY STRESS HOW PAINFUL THIS WOULD BE IN TERMS OF THIS EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL MFA OFFICIAL, AS WELL AS IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH MFA AND THE RTG GENERALLY.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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